

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03999 091817Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 ACDA-05 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7663

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: WHITNEY ARTICLE ON USG DEMARCHES TO WEST
EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

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PAGE 02 PARIS 03999 091817Z

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF CRAIG WHITNEY NYT ARTICLE

IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD-TRIBUNE FEBRUARY 7, EMBASSY RECEIVED QUERY FROM WASHINGTON STAR CORRESPONDENT WANTING CONFIRMATION THAT AMBASSADOR RUSH HAD ACTUALLY TOLD FRENCH SOCIALISTS ESTIER AND MARTINET THAT US "WOULD NOT TOLERATE" PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNISTS IN ANY FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

2. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED ON BACKGROUND THAT AMBASSADOR HAD NOT USED THAT PHRASE, WHICH WENT FAR BEYOND HIS REMARKS. AMBASSADOR WOULD NEVER USE SUCH A PHRASE SINCE THAT WOULD BE OPENLY INTERFERING IN FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICS. WHAT AMBASSADOR HAD SAID BASICALLY WAS THAT THE DOMESTIC EVOLUTION OF FRANCE -- AS FOR EVERY OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY -- HAS TO BE FOR EACH COUNTRY ITSELF TO DETERMINE. ON OTHER HAND, PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNIST PARTY IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT OR IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO, FOR OUR ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIPS AND FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN GENERAL. BUT IT IS UP TO EACH GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF HOW TO PROCEED.

3. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT WHITNEY ARTICLE GAVE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ESTIER AND MARTINET ON ORDERS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER. IF AMBASSADOR HAD CARRIED OUT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS HIMSELF, HE WOULD HAVE DONE SO WITH PS FIRST SECRETARY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, NOT WITH LOWER-RANKING PARTY MEMBERS. IN FACT, DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT IN PARIS AT A LOWER LEVEL BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHO CALLED ON ONE OF MITTERRAND'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS. ESTIER AND MARTINET JUST HAPPENED TO BE AMBASSADOR'S GUESTS AT A LUNCHEON AT ABOUT SAME TIME WHICH INCLUDED OTHER JOURNALISTS, AND WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED BEFORE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED. AT LUNCHEON JOURNALISTS RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST RELATIONS IN FRANCE AND IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TO WHICH AMBASSADOR RESPONDED.

RUSH
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PAGE 03 PARIS 03999 091817Z

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